

CEO E-Briefing

A weekly report to City Council and the community



July 15, 2011

No. 4



Tom Gazsi accepts the position of Police Chief.

Welcome to the New Chief!

This week, Costa Mesa received some great news when **Tom Gazsi** – a highly respected, 32-year veteran of the Newport Beach Police Department – accepted my offer to become our City's new police chief.

As with any prospective chief, Tom has to go through an extensive background check before taking the post, but we hope he'll be moving into his new office sometime in August.

Tom's story is one of a local boy made good. He was raised in the Newport-Mesa community, attended public schools here, and made his family's home in Eastside Costa Mesa. Starting as an Explorer Scout in 1977 for Newport Beach, he steadily worked his way up the career ladder in our neighboring town, making captain in 2007. And now he's about to become police chief of his hometown.

Tom, an ordained minister and church elder, is a man of great character and integrity with three decades of law enforcement experience and a deep knowledge of Costa Mesa that comes from being a lifelong resident.

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting Tom, we'll set up some informal meetings for City employees and the community once he's officially here. I think you'll be impressed. I am.

Tom Hatch, City of Costa Mesa

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☒ **Comments**
or suggestions, please contact
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City of Costa Mesa



Costa Mesa City Hall

CEO's Office

Notes from the CEO's Office

This week, the **Costa Mesa Police Gang Enforcement Unit** received some highly deserved praise for its part in a two-and-a-half year, multi-agency investigation that resulted Wednesday in the arrest of 99 alleged Mexican Mafia gang members and their associates ... In Costa Mesa, three alleged gang members were arrested during early morning raids, another is being sought and a fifth already in custody will be charged in connection to the case ... The **Costa Mesa Redevelopment Agency** received a briefing from counsel this week about state legislation recently passed that may affect redevelopment agencies throughout the state ... The bottom line: the bills are complex and being challenged in court; if the legislation survives, Costa Mea can "opt in" to continue its Redevelopment Agency for a first-year fee of \$1.5 million and annual payments of about \$400,000 ... If the City doesn't opt in, the Redevelopment Agency would be dissolved and the City would not be able to collect its loan to the agency of about \$10 million ... Costa Mesa is a finalist for "Best in Food" in the "**Best of the Road**" competition by **RandMcNally/USAToday** ... With judges **Bonnie** and **Jim Par** (pictured above in red with, from left, Mayor Pro Tem **Jim Righeimer**, Public Affairs Manager **Dan Joyce** and Costa Mesa Conference and Visitors Bureau President **Paulette Lombardi-Fries**) in town this week, Mayor **Gary Monahan** proclaimed Wednesday as "Best of the Road Day" ... Costa Mesa's new pop-up tent (purchased with tourism dollars) will be put into service at Tuesday's **Concerts in the Park** in Fairview Park ... Please stop by and say hello ... At the concert, the City will be passing around sign-up sheets to residents who want to get **CEO E-Briefing** e-mailed to them each Friday.



"Best of the Road" considers Costa Mesa for "Best in Food"



Look for Costa Mesa's new pop-up tent

City on pace to exceed federal goals

The City recently submitted its latest quarterly performance report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP). HPRP funds were awarded to the City in 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also know as the Stimulus Act).

To date, 56 Costa Mesa families (139 residents) have been assisted with these funds. **Mercy House Transitional Living Center** and **Serving People In Need (SPIN)** are under contract with the City to conduct community outreach, and to assess and assist eligible Costa Mesa households.

Homelessness prevention, direct housing assistance for homeless individuals, and support services are provided by these funds. The City is required to expend at least 60% of HPRP funds by the end of August. Costa Mesa is on pace to exceed this goal. In fact, Mercy House and SPIN indicate all funds will be used by December.



Secret Spot

Somewhere in Costa Mesa you might recognize this bit of local scenery.

Hint: This proud eagle has a lot of class.

To get the whole picture, see [page 5](#).

On the Calendar: July 15 - 22

- July 15 **TODAY** The **Orange County Fair** starts today and runs through Aug. 4 ...
- July 16 **TUESDAY** The **City Council** meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Included is a second reading of a new ordinance to regulate massage businesses and two different requests (changes in fees and field user status) from youth sports organizations – the OCFA fire proposal is on the agenda as well ... Tuesday evening's **Concerts in the Park** at 5:30 p.m. in Fairview Park will feature Help!, a Beatles tribute band ...
- July 17
- July 18
- July 19
- July 20 **WEDNESDAY** The City's **Homeless Task Force** will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at police headquarters, 77 Fair Drive ... At the meeting, police officers from **Laguna Beach** and **Santa Ana** will give presentations on their best practices in dealing with the homeless ...
- July 21
- July 22



Administrative Services

Crowds continue to build for Concerts in the Park

More than 1,500 music lovers – the biggest crowd this summer – gathered Tuesday at Fairview Park for **Concerts in the Park**, enjoying live classic rock, gourmet food trucks, the beer and wine garden and games for the kids. This Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.: Help! (Beatles tribute band).

CONCERTS
in the park
2011

Concerts in the Park Schedule:

- July 19 - Help!** (Costumed Beatles Tribute)
- July 26 - Flattop Tom & his Jumpcats** (Swing, Blues, Oldies)
- Aug 2 - Dan Krikorian Band** (Acoustic, Folk & Pop)

Making History

What activities were not part of the first several Orange County Fairs in the 1890s?

- A. Carnival rides
- B. Horse races
- C. Livestock exhibits
- D. "Carnival of Products"

Answer: Carnival rides. The first Orange County Fair was held in 1890 and the first several fairs were primarily livestock exhibitions and horse races. At the turn of the century, a "carnival of products" was added and the Fair became an annual event. It was not until 1925 that carnival rides were added to the Fair. The deep-fried Snickers bars didn't arrive until the 21st century.



OC Fair, circa 1950

Development Services



New residential development completed on Orange Avenue

The construction of a new two-unit, two-story attached condominium has just been completed at 2568 Orange Ave. Each condo is 2,638 square feet with three-bedrooms, 2.5 baths, attached garage, fireplace and landscaped parkways.

Development Services notes

Five separate building permits were issued Wednesday for the construction of five sets of two attached duplex units located between 2065 and 2083 **Thurin Street** for a total of 10 residential units. They will range between 1,863 to 2,080 square feet with attached garages and are expected to have a valuation

of \$1.5 million ... **South Coast Plaza** was issued building permits to begin interior tenant improvement for the retail shop **Crabtree and Evelyn** to reconfigure and improve the existing sales area and stock room.

Fire Department

The 4-1-1 on citywide 9-1-1 emergency alert system

Be notified and stay informed of emergency situations by registering for **AlertCM**. Alert CM is the City's mass notification system and is designed to send messages through phone messages, email and texts. Community members can register their home and work numbers, cell phones, email addresses and TDD /TTY devices. Go to [here](#) to register today. For those with no access to e-mail, registration forms are available at City Hall or by mail at City of Costa Mesa, Telecommunications, Emergency Services, P.O. Box 1200, 79 Fair Drive, 92626.



Failing to prepare is preparing to fail

For the upcoming National Preparedness Month, **Costa Mesa CERT** is planning outreach activities on Sept. 11. Stay tuned for more details.

Do you have your mandated carbon monoxide detector?

Did you install a carbon monoxide detector in your home? As of July 1, state law now requires single family homes with natural gas or wood burning appliances or homes with an attached garage to have a working carbon monoxide detector. This is now a requirement if the home is sold or permitted improvements are completed. Often called a silent killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels, such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane, burn incompletely.

Everyone is at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning, but infants, pregnant women and people with physical conditions that limit their ability to use oxygen can be more severely affected by low concentrations of carbon monoxide than healthy adults. High levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal for anyone, causing death within minutes. The Fire Department encourages every home including apartments (January 2013, all multi-family dwellings, dormitories, motels and hotels must comply) to install a working carbon monoxide detector and have smoke alarms throughout the home. Learn more [here](#).

Police Department

Costa Mesa Animal Control held two dog licensing clinics last week as a new way to promote the licensing of dogs in Costa Mesa. The clinics were held in partnership with the **Orange County Humane Society** and allowed Costa Mesa dog owners to license their dogs in a one-stop-shop process. The clinics were advertised through the City website, a press release, an article in the Daily Pilot, the City's cable TV channel, and curbside advertisement during the event. Here are some stats from the clinics:

- First time Dog Licenses: 63
- Renewals: 18
- Rabies Vaccines: 38
- Microchip: 17

The feedback from the community was exceptional. They were appreciative of the financial incentives offered through the clinics and the convenience of being able to do everything from renewing their licenses, vaccinating their dogs, and getting microchips all in one location.



Secret Spotted

If you didn't go to Estancia High School and still guessed the answer, give yourself 10 bonus points.

Public Services



Peter Naghavi, director of Public Services.

Ground broken on phase 2 of Fairview wetlands project

At a ceremony Thursday afternoon, ground was broken for phase 2 of the **Fairview Park Wetlands & Riparian Habitat Project**. The improvements – estimated to cost \$3.4 million – will include completion of the wetland ponds and water delivery system, a multipurpose trail, fencing, signage, 23 acres of native habitat plantings, and an irrigation system.



City officials lend a hand.

Fuel leak cleaned up at Fire Station No. 1

The County of Orange Health Care Agency last week signed off on the City of Costa Mesa's fuel leak clean-up efforts at Fire Station No. 1 and said no further action was necessary. The City has spent more than \$800,000 cleaning up the fuel leak that was found in 2003.



Before



After

A new roof overhead at City Hall

Work has been completed on City Hall's new energy-efficient roof, paid for by federal stimulus funds. The project cost \$342,000, which was \$85,000 under budget.